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By: Manfred Beck

Date: July 5, 2002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Olaf Müller  
Applic. No. : 10/068,721  
Confirmation No. : 8708  
Filed : February 6, 2002  
Title : Airbag Device, Method of Mounting and  
Method of Operating the Airbag Device

P R E L I M I N A R Y   A M E N D M E N T

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks,  
Washington, D. C. 20231

S i r :

Responsive to the Notice Of Incomplete Reply dated June 20,  
2002 and further responsive to the Notice to File Missing  
Parts dated April 8, 2002.

In the Specification:

Please replace the abstract on file with the new abstract  
which is provided on a separate sheet.

10068721.071002

Remarks:

The Notice Of Incomplete Reply dated June 20, 2002 states that an abstract was not provided for this application.

Applicant filed a certified translation of the application on May 4, 2002. The certified translation of the application included 22 pages. The required abstract was on page 22 of the certified translation.

Presumably page 22 of the translation was misplaced in the Patent Office file or was lost when handling the certified translation in the Patent Office.

Applicant encloses a copy of the abstract on page 22 of the certified translation as filed on May 4, 2002. Applicant also encloses a new abstract on a separate sheet which is to replace the abstract on page 22 of the certified translation. The new abstract has been amended in accordance with the MPEP guidelines for preparing an abstract. A version of the abstract with markings to show the changes made is also enclosed.

In view of the above, it is believed that an extension of time is not necessary. However, if an extension of time is necessary to prevent abandonment of the above-identified application, a petition for extension is herewith made.

Please charge the extension fee in accordance with Section 1.17 for response within a period of one month pursuant to Section 1.136(a) in the amount of \$110.00 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 also to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

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For Applicant

MB:cgm

July 5, 2002

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Applic. No. : 10/068,721

Marked-Up Version of the Amended Abstract:

**Abstract**

[The invention relates to an] An airbag apparatus [, with] includes an airbag module and at least one covering device, behind which, in a closing position, an airbag expanding by gas inflation is accommodated and which, to release the [expansion of the] expanding airbag, can be moved out of the closing position into an open position by [means of] using a mechanism [, the] . The mechanism [containing] contains a first mechanism component, which is coupled firmly to the airbag module, and a second mechanism component, which is coupled firmly to the covering device [, and the] . The airbag module [forming] forms, together with the first mechanism component, a unit ready for installation. [The invention relates, furthermore, to a] A mounting method [for such an airbag apparatus , the mechanism containing a first mechanism component which is coupled firmly to the airbag module, so that the airbag module forms, together with the first mechanism component, a unit ready for installation, and containing a second mechanism component which is coupled firmly to the covering device, and, during or after the installation of the airbag apparatus behind a vehicle interior trim panel, the first mechanism component being brought into an active position with respect to the second mechanism component. The invention relates, further, to] and an operating method for such an airbag apparatus [, the first mechanism component and the second mechanism component being coupled actively to one another only by means of a release of the airbag apparatus] are also provided.